

**RECORD OF DECISION
and
RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY
for the
BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Salt Lake District

June 1986



A Word From the Area Manager

This brochure contains the decisions for future management of the public lands in Box Elder County. It includes the summary of the rangeland program, which is the group of decisions affecting livestock grazing.

All of the decisions described in this brochure are the culmination of a 4-year planning effort by BLM. The planning process involved concerned citizens, organizations, and government officials and agencies. I appreciate their time and effort and believe that their help has assisted us in preparing the best possible plan. The background documents and more detailed maps are available for public inspection at the Salt Lake District office. They provide a thorough analysis which supports the resource allocations which have been made. My staff and I would be pleased to assist anyone who wishes to review this information.



Reed Stalder
Bear River Resource Area Manager

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RECORD OF DECISION
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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 1986

Prepared By

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Salt Lake District Office
Salt Lake City, Utah

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roland Robison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Roland Robison
Utah State Director

Decision Record Sheet

**Box Elder Resource Management Plan
Bear River Resource Area
Salt Lake District
Bureau of Land Management**

We have reviewed and approved for implementation the proposed decisions of the Box Elder Resource Management Plan. The specific details of the decisions are included in the contents of the Record of Decision which follows the Decision Record Sheet.

4/18/86
Date

F Reed Stalder
Area Manager

4/18/86
Date

John H. Stephenson
Acting District Manager

4/18/86
Date

Roland Robinson
State Director

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The Box Elder Resource Management (RMP) provides direction for management of the public lands and resources in Box Elder County, Utah. It complies with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the appropriate planning and grazing regulations (43 CFR 1600 and 43 CFR 4160). The decisions identified in this RMP apply to all public lands within the county and any lands subsequently added. Other Federal, State, and private properties are discussed only to the extent that their management interacts with that of BLM. This plan will remain in effect until it is determined by management to be outdated. The plan may be amended or revised to incorporate new uses of public lands in Box Elder County.

Box Elder County is located in northwestern Utah. The public lands are within BLM's Salt Lake District and are administered by the Bear River Resource Area (See Figure 1). Within the county, BLM manages 830,506 acres of public land with subsurface minerals owned by the Federal Government and another 183,446 acres of Federal mineral estate without public land surface.

Implementation

The decisions presented in this plan will be implemented over a period of years. The ability of the Salt Lake District to complete the identified projects is directly dependent upon the BLM budgeting process. The priorities for accomplishment will be reviewed annually and may be revised based upon changes in law, regulations, policy, or economic factors such as cost-effectiveness of projects.

Monitoring

Monitoring systems will be developed to determine the overall effectiveness of the decisions made in the RMP. During 1986 and 1987, an overall monitoring plan will be prepared to set priorities and track the implementation of decisions. In the annual activity planning for each resource program, BLM will outline the necessary on-the-ground monitoring for determining whether the RMP objectives are being met. All monitoring will be

conducted according to the direction and policy for each of the various resource programs.

Alternatives Analyzed

Four alternatives were analyzed in the Draft Box Elder Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Alternative 1 described the continuation of current management and was identified as the no action alternative.

Alternative 2 provided a balance between resource development and resource protection. Some aspects of this alternative stressed development, such as land disposal, access, and off-road vehicle use, while other aspects stressed protection, such as withdrawing lands from mineral entry and designating Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Alternative 3 emphasized protection of resources, including wildlife habitat, watershed, visual resources and non-motorized recreation, while allowing compatible resource development activities.

Alternative 4 emphasized resource development and protected other resources to the extent required by laws and regulations.

The proposed decisions identified in the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement consisted primarily of the components of Alternative 2. Several changes had been made based upon information received during the comment period on the draft document.

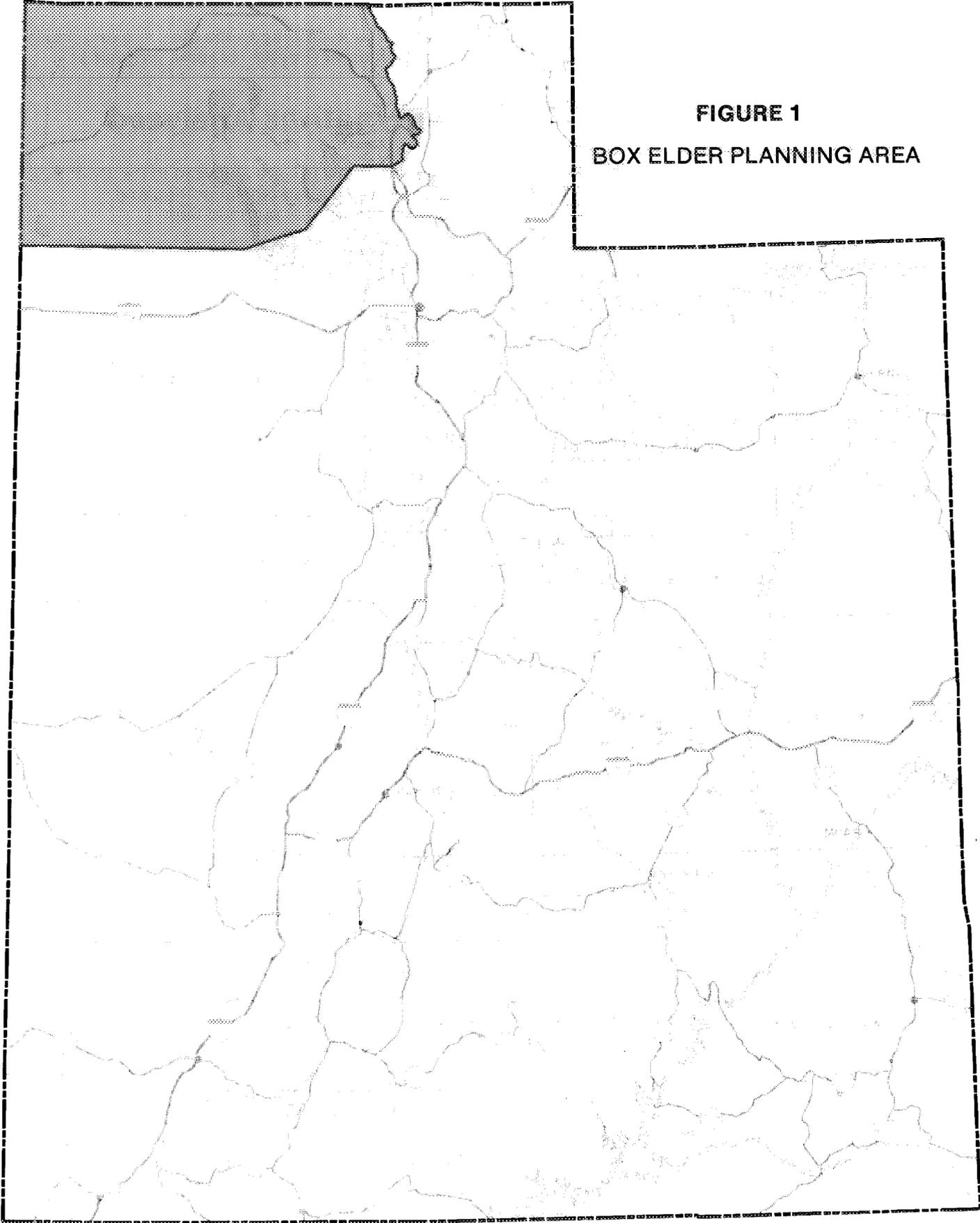
Public Involvement

The public was involved in the development of this plan. Their participation is outlined in the Proposed Box Elder Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement published in October of 1985.

The public was notified of their right to protest the proposed plan through the Federal Register, news releases, and letters. The protest period ended on November 18, 1985. Four protests affecting two decisions (wildlife decisions 3 and 5) were filed.

FIGURE 1

BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA



0 10 20 30 40 MILES

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

830,506 sub 2
183,446 sub
1013952

Consistency Review

The Box Elder RMP was reviewed by the State of Utah and determined to be consistent with any officially approved resource related plans or policies of the state, as indicated in Governor Norman H. Bangerter's letter to Roland Robison, BLM's Utah State Director, dated November 22, 1985.

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan contains the decisions for management of public lands in Box Elder County. A rationale for each decision is also provided.

LANDS PROGRAM

Decision 1

Retain a total of 1,003,221 acres of public land as defined by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 in Federal ownership. This land will be retained except for two specific kinds of actions: (1) exchanges and (2) conveyances under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926 as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

Proposals for land exchanges shall meet one or more of the following criteria with a higher priority given to those proposals with the greatest net gain in public values:

(1) Acquire areas that have common property lines, not corners, with existing public land, and that increase the efficiency of public land management. The cumulative total of adjoining public lands that would result after acquisition must be at least 1,920 acres.

(2) Acquire areas where there is a net gain of the following values:

- Riparian and aquatic habitat including springs, streams and marshes.
- Public lands within or adjacent to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Visual Resource Management Class II and III areas.

(3) Dispose of areas with serious unauthorized use and boundary dispute problems, if every

reasonable attempt under existing law has been made to resolve the problem without a suitable solution and the lands are not needed for any important resource value.

Rationale

Congress has declared that it is the policy of the United States to retain public land in Federal ownership unless as a result of the planning process a disposal is determined to be in the national interest.

It has been determined through the inventory and land use planning process that these 1,003,221 acres contain significant multiple use values as defined in FLPMA, including but not limited to:

- livestock grazing, including the stabilization and development of the livestock industry dependent upon Federal lands;
- fish and wildlife development and utilization, including the maintenance of habitat and food supplies for the fish and wildlife dependent upon the public lands and maintained under Federal and State programs;
- mineral production, such as through material sales, free use permits, and mineral leases.
- outdoor recreation, including the provisions or preservation of adequate areas of public hunting and fishing grounds, the provision of needed conservation of recreation areas, scenic areas, natural beauty, open space, and public access thereto;
- watershed protection, including the protection of fragile lands, conservation of productive soils and water supplies, and prevention of damage and loss due to excessive runoff, flooding, and siltation;
- woodland product production; and
- archaeological, historic, and scientific resource protection and management.

The retention of these public lands and their resource values are needed to meet the present and future needs of the American people, and to achieve the maximum future use taking into account the long-term needs for renewable and nonrenewable resources. The decision is based on a consideration of the relative values of the resources and not necessarily on the use that will give the greatest economic return or the

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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greatest unit output.

The requirement to achieve a minimum disturbance of existing users is met.

The majority of the lands in Box Elder County are private, and generally devoted to single uses or other more limited uses than on public land. The decision to retain this public land is based on the relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative means and sites for realization of these values.

The lands are needed to protect or enhance Federal programs, by such means as the control of access, exclusion of non-conforming inholdings, and maintenance of efficient management areas.

These lands do not meet the criteria for disposal required by the law and regulations.

The land ownership pattern in the Box Elder Planning Area is very complex as a result of the historic disposal action. This ownership pattern results in difficult, ineffective management of both the public and private lands. Exchanges would allow the readjustment of ownership patterns without a net loss of Federal ownership or natural resource values if they are allowed under the criteria listed above. As a general rule, exchanges wherein the acreage acquired would not result in a contiguous block of at least 1,920 acres of public land would not be allowed. Significant improvement of public land management rarely results from exchanges resulting in less than 1,920 acres of contiguous public land.

Decision 2

The following tracts of public land (see Table 1 and Figure 2) will be disposed: Tracts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41. They will be disposed of by any appropriate method under the law.

Tracts 5, 6, 7, 25 and 39 will be transferred to the adjoining Federal agency. If that agency indicates in writing that it does not wish to acquire the tract(s) or refuses to take the appropriate steps necessary to begin the acquisition of the tracts within 2 years of the agency being notified of the effective date of this plan, the tracts will be disposed of by any appropriate method under applicable laws.

Tracts 33, 34, 35 and 40 will be transferred to the adjoining Federal agency. If that agency indicates in writing that it does not wish to acquire the tract(s) or refuses to take the

appropriate steps necessary to begin the acquisition of the tracts, they will be retained under BLM administration.

All of the above tracts total 8,572 acres.

Rationale

In Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Congress has allowed the disposal of public land when such tract, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency. The tracts listed for disposal in this decision clearly fit these criteria. No significant environmental consequences would result if any or all of the above tracts were disposed. Tracts that may be suitable for management by another Federal agency and otherwise meet the disposal criteria have been separately identified and will be disposed of only after the adjoining Federal agency has indicated a lack of interest in them. Tracts that may be suitable for management by another Federal agency but otherwise do not meet the disposal criteria will be retained by BLM if the adjoining Federal agency is not interested in acquiring them.

Decision 3

The utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be considered whenever possible. Rights-of-way will, to the maximum extent possible, avoid the following areas:

- (1) lands within 0.5 mile of sage grouse strutting grounds if the disturbance would adversely impact the effectiveness of the lek.
- (2) lands within 600 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats.
- (3) lands within VRM Class II and III areas.
- (4) lands where an above-ground right-of-way would be an obvious visual or physical intrusion such as ridge tops or narrow drainages.
- (5) lands with slopes greater than 30 percent.

Exceptions may be permitted based on considerations of the following criteria:

- type and need for facility proposed and economic impact of facility,
- conflicts with other resource values and uses, and
- availability of alternative routes and/or mitigation measures.

Note: Also see seasonal restrictions described

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 1 Tracts for Disposal or Transfer

Tract Number	Tract Location	Acres
1.	T. 6 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 6: S½SE¼ Sec. 7: Lots 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7; NE¼, E½NW¼, SE¼	80.00 580.62
2.	T. 6 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 12: Lots 1 - 4	94.80
3.	T. 8 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 15: Lot 8	1.85
4.	T. 8 N., R. 7 W., Sec. 8: Lots 1 & 2, E½NE¼	137.96
5.	T. 9 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 11: Lots 3 & 4	19.00
6.	Sec. 35: Lot 6	2.79
7.	T. 9 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 6: Lots 1-12, SE¼	609.58
8.	T 10 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 29: Lot 7	.50
9.	T. 11 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 12: SW¼SW¼	40.00
10.	T. 11 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 14: S½SE¼	80.00
11.	T. 11 N., R. 7 W., Sec. 26: E½SE¼	80.00
12.	T. 11 N., R. 18 W., Sec. 20: NE¼, E½SE¼	240.00
13.	T. 12 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 6: Lots 2,3, & 10	49.50
14.	T. 12 N., R. 9 W., Sec. 14: All Sec. 15: All Sec. 22: All	640.00 640.00 640.00
15.	T. 12 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 3: E½SE¼	80.00
16.	T. 12 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 34: W½NW¼	80.00
17.	T. 13 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 26: NW¼NW¼	40.00
18.	E½SW¼, SW¼SW¼	120.00
19.	T. 13 N., R. 8 W., Sec. 12: All	640.00
20.	T. 13 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 12: E½E½	160.00
21.	Sec. 14: W½NW¼	80.00
22.	T 13 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 2: W½W½	86.43
23.	T. 13 N., R. 15 W., Sec. 13: Lots 11, 12	3.43
24.	T. 13 N., R. 18 W., Sec. 8: NW¼SE¼	40.00
25.	T. 14 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 3: Lots 1 & 7	77.21

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Tract Number	Tract Location	Acres
26.	T. 14 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 6: Lot 4	30.45
27.	Sec. 12: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	40.00
28.	T. 14 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 34: E $\frac{1}{2}$	320.00
29.	T. 14 N., R. 7 W., Sec. 20: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80.00
30.	T. 14 N., R. 8 W., Sec. 26: Lots 1-7, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	295.31
31.	T. 14 N., R. 9 W., Sec. 12: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80.00
32.	T. 14 N., R. 11 W., Sec. 14: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 22: NE $\frac{1}{4}$	120.00 160.00 160.00
33.	T. 14 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 1: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	40.00
34.	T. 14 N., R. 15 W., Sec. 22: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	320.00
35.	Sec. 23: Lots 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	175.31
36.	T. 15 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 25: Lots 1-4 Sec. 26: Lots 1-4 Sec. 27: Lots 1-4 Sec. 28: Lots 1-4 Sec. 29: Lots 1-4 Sec. 33: N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 34: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	13.50 12.72 15.34 18.36 17.74 320.00 280.00
37.	T. 15 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 25: Lots 1-4	8.26
38.	Sec. 31: Lots 8-16	356.51
39.	T. 15 N., R. 11 W., Sec. 30: Lots 1-4	163.39
40.	T. 15 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 27: Lots 1-4 Sec. 28: Lots 1-4	42.71 79.22
41.	T. 14 N., R. 15 W., Sec. 15: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 22: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	40.00 40.00
Total		8,572.48

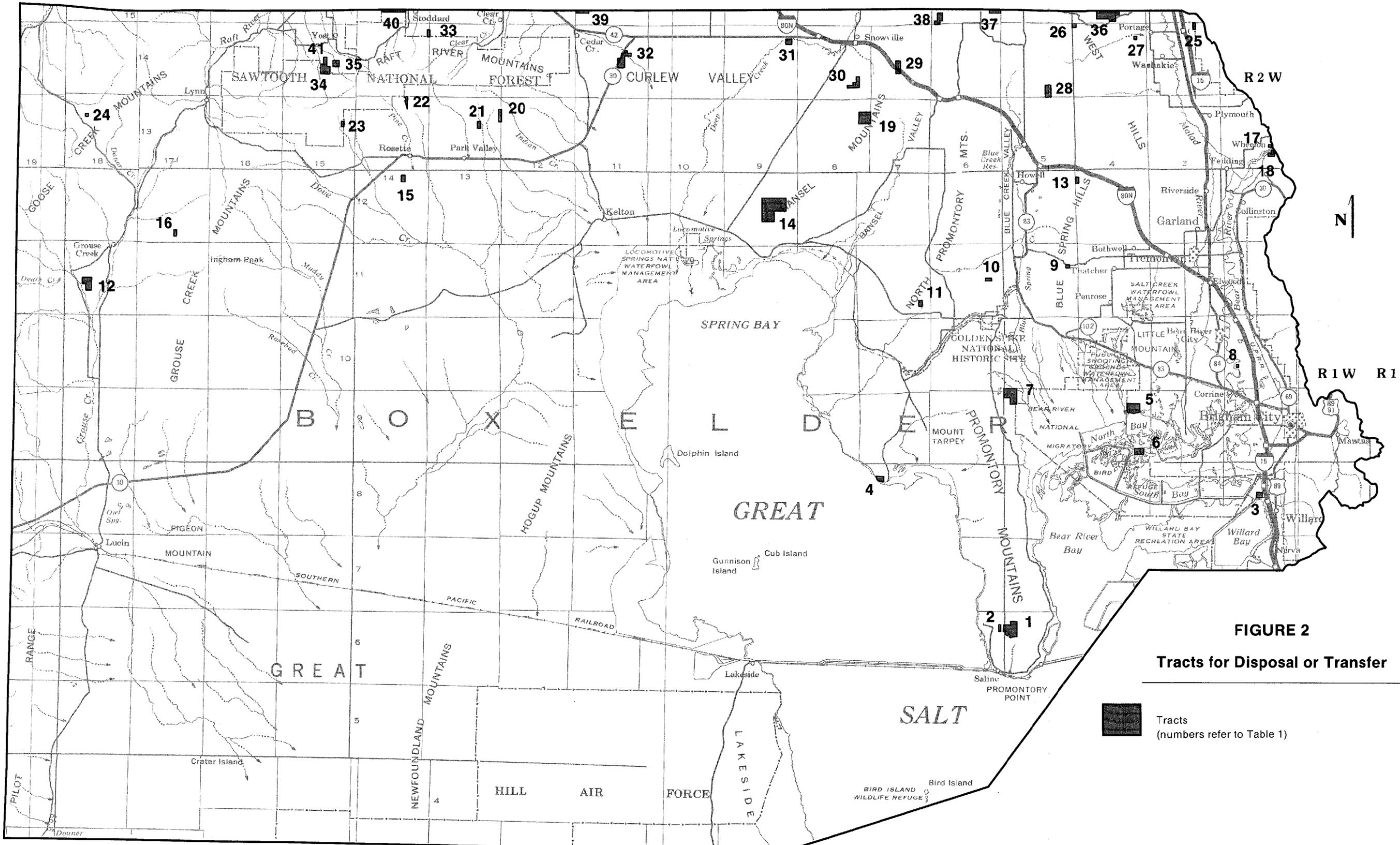
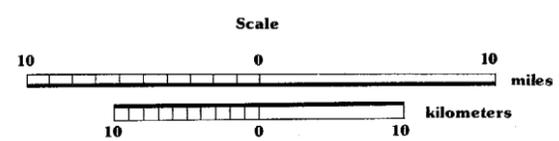


FIGURE 2
Tracts for Disposal or Transfer

■ Tracts
 (numbers refer to Table 1)



BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA

NOTE: This map meets the National Map Accuracy Standards

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

in Wildlife Decision 7.

Rationale

Section 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 states, "In order to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way, the utilization of rights-of-way in common shall be required to the extent practical . . ."

BLM's intention is to make every reasonable effort when considering right-of-way proposals to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and to meet the needs of the local populace.

Decision 4

Legal and physical access needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the access to be obtained, the priority in meeting management objectives, and the availability of sufficient funding.

Rationale

Specific access needs will undoubtedly be identified as various resource planning decisions are implemented and land patterns change. BLM's current policy of evaluating access on a case-by-case basis is the most effective way to handle these future needs.

MINERALS PROGRAM

Decision 1

Continue to process applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials including sand and gravel and leasable minerals other than fluid minerals on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be required based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

Rationale

This is BLM's current policy for managing leasable minerals other than fluid minerals and common variety minerals in Box Elder County and is the most effective way to handle these needs.

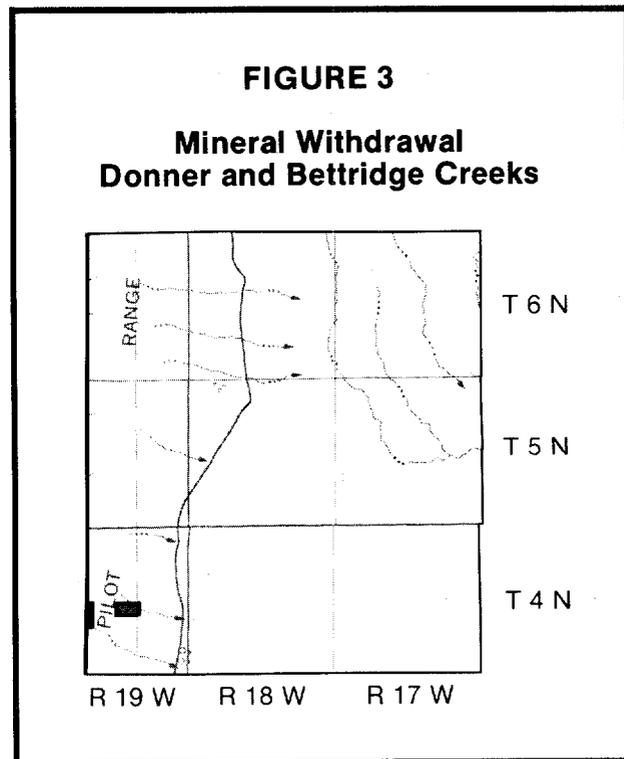
Decision 2

Prepare an application to withdraw from mineral entry under the mining law approximately 381 public land acres underlain with Federal minerals in Donner and Bettridge Creek drainages. The purpose of the withdrawal would be to protect the Lahontan cutthroat trout, a

threatened species. The withdrawn area would include T. 4 N., R. 19 W., Section 20, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 (61 acres) and Section 22 (320 acres). The proposed withdrawal is shown in Figure 2.

Continue the withdrawal U-52338 (Interpretation Withdrawal Public Water Reserve 107) which limits mineral entry on 6,840 acres (see legal descriptions in Appendix 1) for protection of water sources.

The remainder of the planning area would remain open for locatable mineral entry.



Rationale

Bettridge Creek and Donner Creek are a unique combination of rare and/or fragile resources on the Pilot Mountains in western Box Elder County. Some recent studies by a BLM fisheries biologist identified that one of the last pure strains of Lahontan cutthroat trout exists in these streams. This trout is a threatened species; a decision to protect their habitat from disturbance is consistent with BLM policy and law.

Water is a precious commodity in Utah as well as most western states. Proper management of this resource is a crucial element in the multiple use management concept developed in Box Elder County. The decision to continue

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

withdrawal U-52338 protects this precious commodity.

The majority of public lands and mineral estate in the planning area would remain open to mineral entry, which is consistent with current executive orders and Federal regulations.

Decision 3

Categorize the Federal mineral estate in Box Elder County for fluid mineral leasing in the least restrictive category which will adequately protect other resources and land uses. Lands would be placed in categories as follows (also see Figure 4):

Category 1: Open for leasing	800,732 acres
Category 2: Open with special stipulations	213,726 acres

The special stipulations are:

(1) In order to protect crucial mule deer winter range, exploration, drilling and other development activity will be allowed only from April 16 to November 30 and not allowed from December 1 to April 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 83,840 acres. If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

(2) In order to protect crucial raptor nesting sites, exploration, drilling and other development activity within 0.5 mile radius of the sites will be allowed from July 16 to February 28, and not allowed from March 1 through July 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 17,920 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

(3) In order to protect crucial sage grouse breeding complexes, exploration, drilling and other development activity within 0.5 mile radius of the complexes will be allowed from June 16 to March 14 and not allowed from March 15 through June 15. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 23,680 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer in consultation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

(4) In order to protect visual resources in VRM Class II and III areas, activities in these areas will be located and designed in a way to meet Class II and III management criteria. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 84,511 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer.

(5) In order to protect crucial riparian habitat and municipal and non-municipal watershed areas, no occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed within 600 feet of live water. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 3,535 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer.

(6) In order to protect crucial watershed areas, no occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed on slopes in excess of 30 percent. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. This stipulation affects 149,715 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer.

Category 3: No Surface Occupancy	3,861 acres
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The following stipulations will be applied to areas which will be leased but where no surface occupancy will be permitted:

(1) All or part of the land in this lease is included in a critical area for a threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Therefore, no occupancy or disturbance of the surface of the land is authorized. This stipulation affects 381

114°

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R 19 W R 18 W R 17 W R 16 W R 15 W R 14 W R 13 W R 12 W R 11 W R 10 W R 9 W R 8 W R 7 W R 6 W R 5 W R 4 W R 3 W

42°

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T 12 N

T 11 N

T 10 N

T 9 N

T 8 N

T 7 N

T 6 N

T 5 N

T 4 N

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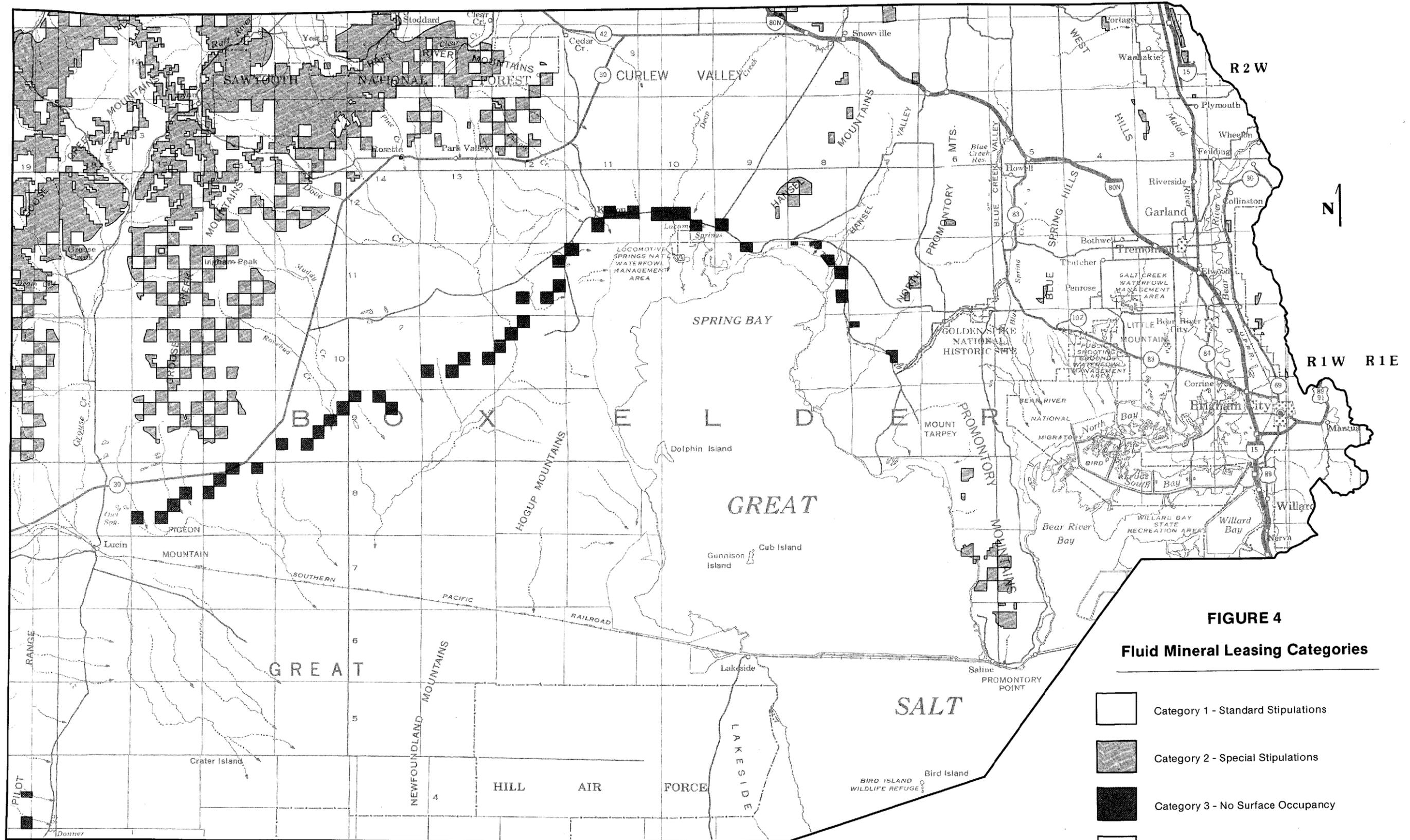
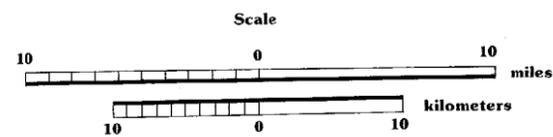


FIGURE 4

Fluid Mineral Leasing Categories

-  Category 1 - Standard Stipulations
-  Category 2 - Special Stipulations
-  Category 3 - No Surface Occupancy
-  NONE Category 4 - No Lease Area



113°

BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

acres near Donner and Bettridge Creeks which contain Lahontan cutthroat trout.

(2) All or part of the land in this lease is included in the Golden Spike National Historic Site. Therefore, no occupancy or disturbance of the surface of the land is authorized. This stipulation affects the Golden Spike National Historic Site which encompasses 2,240 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer with concurrence of the National Park Service.

(3) All or part of the land in this lease is included in a significant historical site. Therefore, no occupancy or disturbance of the surface of the land is authorized. This stipulation affects the old Central Pacific Railroad grade which encompasses 1,240 acres.

If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can take place without impact to the resource being protected, an exemption to this stipulation may be granted, if approved in writing by the authorized officer with concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Category 4: Closed to leasing 0 acres

Rationale

To be consistent with the national energy policy, the Box Elder Planning Area was categorized so that the Federal mineral estate in the area will be in the least restrictive category which would adequately protect the resources. Areas containing the most valuable, rare, and/or unique resource values within the planning area were placed in more restrictive categories, where conflicts could be mitigated using special stipulations and/or allowing no surface occupancy.

RANGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Decision 1

Categorize the grazing allotments as shown in Table 2 based on present resource conditions and the potential for improvement. The Category M (Maintain) allotments will generally

be managed to maintain current satisfactory range conditions. Category I (Improve) allotments will be managed to resolve conflicts and improve resource conditions. Current management will continue on Category C (Custodial) allotments to prevent resource deterioration.

Rationale

BLM's policy for rangeland management is to categorize allotments to help focus management attention on those areas with the greatest management problems and the greatest potential for improved productivity.

Management appears to be satisfactory on 22 allotments in Category M. These allotments are producing forage at or near production potential. Production potential in Category M allotments must be moderate to high. Range condition is satisfactory, and no resource or use conflicts exist.

Management appears to be unsatisfactory on 16 allotments in Category I. These allotments are currently producing forage below their moderate to high potential. Present range condition is generally unsatisfactory and significant resource or use conflicts exist.

Due to land ownership pattern, topography, production potential, or location, intensive management of the Federal land is not practical on 20 allotments in Category C. Limited resource or use conflicts exist on these allotments.

These categories will assist BLM in determining the intensity of management and expenditure of time and money on each allotment. As conflicts and resource conditions warrant, allotments may be moved from one category to another.

Decision 2

Prepare allotment management plans for all Category I and three Category M allotments as shown in Table 2.

The objective of Category I AMPs would be to resolve resource or use conflicts through implementation of rangeland improvement projects or other management procedures such as season-of-use adjustments, increases and decreases in livestock numbers, and grazing systems. All rangeland improvements would be subject to BLM's specifications and stipulations.

The objective of Category M AMPs would be to formally document the current management, which is felt to be satisfactory.

**TABLE 2
ALLOTMENT CATEGORIZATION AND AMP DEVELOPMENT**

IMPROVE (I) CATEGORY			MAINTAIN (M) CATEGORY (4)			CUSTODIAL (C) CATEGORY (8)
ALLOTMENT NAME	AMP PRIORITY (1)	AMP COMPLETION DATE	ALLOTMENT NAME	AMP PRIORITY (1)	AMP COMPLETION DATE	ALLOTMENT NAME
Goose Creek	1	March 31, 1987 (2)	Vipont	8		Death Creek
Raft River	2	December 31, 1987	Yost Pasture (5)	2	December 31, 1987	Muddy Creek (7)
Janey Spring	8	March 31, 1991	Junction Creek			Dairy Valley
Hardesty Creek	6	March 31, 1990	Lynn			Rosebud (7)
Grouse Creek	3	March 31, 1988	Buckskin (6)	3	March 31, 1988	Kilgore
Dry Canyon	7	March 31, 1990	Red Butte (6)	3	March 31, 1988	Watercress (7)
Kimball Creek	9	December 31, 1992	Ingham (6)	3	March 31, 1988	Yost Isolated
Cycle Springs	4	February 28, 1989	Ingham Pass (7)			Leppe (7)
Pine Creek	10	March 20, 1991	White Lakes			Rosette (7)
Lucin/Pilot	5	March 31, 1988	Owl Springs			Hirschi
Warm Springs	4	February 28, 1989	U & I			Shaw Springs
Terrace (3)			Newfoundland			Fisher Creek
Basin L & L	2	December 15, 1986	Young Bros.			Ten Mile
Dove Creek	1	September 30, 1986	Ward			Curlew Junction
Baker Hills	4	November 1, 1987	Mann			Salt Wells
North Kelton	3	September 30, 1987	Matlin			Rozelle Flats
			Red Dome			Golden Spike
			Selman			Conner
			Peplin			Ida-Ute
			Black Rock			Naf
			South Kelton			
			Snowville	5	September 30, 1988	

- (1) AMP priorities have been set for the Grouse Creek and Park Valley areas. Therefore, there are two number 1 priorities, two number 2 priorities, etc. Priorities with the same number will be done concurrently.
- (2) The AMP for this allotment will be incorporated into a Multiple Use Management Plan.
- (3) The boundary dispute in this allotment will be solved by the implementation of the Dove Creek AMP. When the AMP is signed, the remainder of this allotment not incorporated into the Dove Creek Allotment will change to the Maintain category.
- (4) AMPs in this category are not planned at this time, except as noted. If funding becomes available in the future, these allotments will be put into AMPs by priority.
- (5) The Raft River Allotment when incorporated with Yost Pasture will also be incorporated into the existing AMP.
- (6) The Red Butte and Pine Creek Allotments will be incorporated into the Ingham AMP. The Buckskin Allotment will be incorporated with the Grouse Creek AMP.
- (7) These allotments will come under AMPs as follows: Muddy Creek, Rosebud, and Watercress Allotments will be combined with Cycle Springs, Ingham Pass and Warm Springs. Leppe will be combined with Lucin/Pilot and Rosette will become part of the Dove Creek Allotment. After incorporation, the Custodial allotments will assume the category of the principal allotment.
- (8) It is doubtful that AMPs will be developed for these allotments, except as noted in (4).

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Development of AMPs will consider all other resources and uses. Future levels of funding and manpower may require some adjustments in the timely development of AMPs.

Rationale

AMPs are the specific activity plans which allow for detailed evaluation and management actions within an allotment. These activity plans will be developed on all allotments where resource conditions and potential justify the need for the plan. Specifically, they will be developed on all Category I allotments and high priority Category M allotments. Category C and low priority Category M allotments will not have AMPs developed at this time.

Decision 3

Implement allotment consolidations as shown in Table 3. Divide Rosebud Allotment in two portions. One portion will be a new allotment; the other portion will be added to Ingham, Muddy Creek, Warm Springs, Cycle Springs, and Watercress Allotments. These allotments will form a new, large allotment which has not yet been named. Divide the Lucin-Pilot Allotment into at least two separate allotments. Combine the Leppe Allotment with the portion of Lucin-Pilot Allotment used by TL Bar Ranch.

TABLE 3
Allotment Consolidations

COMBINED ALLOTMENTS	NEW ALLOTMENT NAME
Rosette, Dove Creek	Dove Creek
Red Dome Matlin	Matlin
Red Butte, Pine Creek	Red Butte
Leppe, Lucin-Pilot	Lucin and Pilot
Raft River, Yost Pasture	Yost Pasture
Water Cress, Rosebud,	Not Yet Named
Ingham Pass, Muddy Creek,	
Warm Spring, Cycle Spring	

Rationale

Consolidation of two or more allotments:

- facilitates the development of AMPs and grazing systems,
- facilitates the movement of livestock through a grazing system,
- in most cases, allows management flexibility,
- results in administrative efficiency (i.e. billing, use-supervision), and
- reduces costs for the permittees and BLM.

All of the allotments are geographically homogeneous. Generally, the permittees in one allotment are the same as those in the assimilating allotment. The consolidations are administratively logical and offer the opportunity for increased management efficiency with a minimum of investment. In all cases, the resulting allotment will be classified in Category I.

Division of Rosebud Allotment will result in improved range conditions for the following reasons:

- (1) The Conrad Maxfield portion of the Rosebud Allotment will be part of the Allotment Management Plan for the new combined allotment.
- (2) The Lynn James and Lee Pritchett portion will be used in conjunction with private lands.
- (3) The division will result in the opportunity to design and implement grazing systems which will enhance the range resource, aid in distribution of livestock, and increase the efficiency of forage utilization.

The Lucin/Pilot Allotment is the largest allotment in the planning area. The topography is such that all major vegetative sites can be found within the allotment boundary. As a result, the allotment is both underutilized and overutilized in areas due to poor distribution. In addition, areas that should be grazed during the winter months are being grazed during the summer. It is felt that dividing the allotment would facilitate development of pasture systems in the resulting allotments as well as solve conflicts among permittees.

Decision 4

Authorize the following initial forage use in the Box Elder Planning Area:

Cattle	29,850 AUMs
Sheep	15,539 AUMs
Domestic Horses	315 AUMs

The initial forage use is the current active preference level. Table 4 lists initial authorized use by allotment.

BLM will continue to monitor the allotments to assure that these levels are proper or determine if adjustments from active preference are needed.

On allotments with suspended non-use AUMs (i.e., active preference is below total preference), the suspended AUMs may be reinstated on a temporary, non-renewable basis to the level which current monitoring studies

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 4 INITIAL LIVESTOCK FORAGE USE BY ALLOTMENT

Number	Allotment	Livestock Use (AUMs)			Total Livestock Use
		Cattle	Sheep	Domestic Horses	
5034	Goose Creek	2,140	0	25	2,165
5035	Vipont	44	0	0	44
5036	Junction Creek	589	0	0	589
5037	Raft River	212	0	0	212
5038	Yost Pastures	1,206	0	0	1,206
5039	Janey Spring	438	0	0	438
5040	Hardesty Creek	1,713	0	0	1,713
5041	Grouse Creek	3,432	0	84	3,516
5042	Dry Canyon	1,161	0	17	1,178
5043	Lynn	629	0	0	629
5044	Kimball Creek	1,179	0	22	1,201
5045	Death Creek	424	0	0	424
5046	Buckskin	515	0	12	527
5047	Red Butte	937	0	0	937
5048	Ingham	802	0	0	802
5049	Muddy Creek	501	0	0	501
5050	Ingham Pass	80	0	0	80
5051	Dairy Valley	442	0	0	442
5052	Cycle Springs	399	0	0	399
5053	Rosebud	729	0	0	729
5054	Kilgore	268	0	30	298
5055	White Lakes	0	1,500	0	1,500
5056	Pine Creek	211	0	5	216
5057	Owl Springs	1,682	0	16	1,698
5058	U & I	914	0	0	914
5059	Watercross	390	0	0	390
5060	Yost Iso Tract	44	0	0	44
5062	Lucin/Pilot	871	1,770	0	2,641
5063	Leppe	160	1,120	0	1,280
5064	Warm Springs	440	0	0	440
5065	Newfoundland	0	4,593	0	4,593
5066	Basin L & L	1,064	922	0	1,986
5067	Young Brothers	0	1,660	0	1,660
5068	Ward	0	400	0	400
5070	Mann	0	448	0	448
5071	Matlin	0	480	0	480
5072	Red Dome	0	384	0	384
5073	Selmon/Goring	0	924	0	924
5074	Terrace	0	369	0	369
5075	Pritchett Block	0	0	0	0
5076	Dove Creek	1,025	0	104	1,129
5077	Peplin	0	283	0	283
5078	Baker Hills	316	0	0	316
5079	Black Rock	159	0	0	159
5080	Rosette	60	0	0	60
5081	Hirschi	25	0	0	25
5082	Shaw Spring	75	0	0	75
5083	South Kelton	220	0	0	220
5084	Fisher Creek	410	0	0	410
5085	Ten Mile	33	0	0	33
5086	North Kelton	220	0	0	220
5087	Curlew Junction	50	0	0	50
5088	Snowville	2,628	686	0	3,314
5090	Salt Wells	401	0	0	401
5091	Rozelle Flat	336	0	0	336
5092	Golden Spike	131	0	0	131
5093	Conner	132	0	0	132
5094	Naf	7	0	0	7
	Ida-Ute	6	0	0	6
Total		29,850	15,539	315	45,704

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

indicate. This temporary non-renewable reinstatement of suspended AUMs may be made permanent after being substantiated by a minimum of 5 years of monitoring data.

On Red Dome and Matlin Allotments, BLM will issue a temporary 60-percent increase in three increments of 20 percent each. The increase would be in the form of temporary, non-renewable AUMs and would be issued in the first, third, and fifth years of a 5-year period. If monitoring data support the increase, the increase would be made permanent.

On Peplin Allotment, BLM will grant a temporary, non-renewable increase of 10 percent (28 AUMs) in earlier livestock turn-out time or numbers of animals for 5 years. If 5 years of monitoring data support the increase, it may be made permanent.

After range improvements are accomplished, additional AUMs could be granted in some allotments. The AUMs would be granted on a temporary, non-renewable basis until monitoring data substantiate a permanent adjustment.

Rationale

BLM has conducted a soil and vegetative inventory as well as livestock utilization and actual use studies in the planning area. Trend studies have been established; the initial data will be available this year with several collection periods to follow. The above mentioned information along with personal observations generally indicate that authorized livestock grazing preference is proper. Monitoring studies will be conducted to assure that the levels are proper or determine if adjustments from active preference are needed.

Reinstatement of suspended non-use AUMs on a temporary basis is practical in some allotments due to an observed increase in availability of livestock forage. This increase in forage is the result of successful fire rehabilitation seedings and other range improvements such as water systems. These improvements have aided in overall distribution, which in turn has resulted in more uniform utilization. Additional studies will provide the necessary data for BLM to determine if active preference should be increased on these allotments.

Evidence exists that not all public land in Red Dome and Matlin Allotments was adjudicated for forage during the 1967 adjudication process.

In addition, utilization studies since 1979 indicate that average utilization has been 25 to 28 percent with actual livestock use at 90 percent of preference.

On Peplin Allotment, actual use at 98 percent of preference has resulted in an average 23 percent utilization over the last 4 years. Peplin Allotment is in primarily late seral condition.

Decision 5

Maintain the current livestock seasons-of use on 33 allotments. Change the current seasons-of-use on 25 allotments to better meet the requirements of key species. Table 5 shows the season-of use for all allotments in the planning area.

Rationale

On 25 allotments the season-of-use will be changed to prevent or reduce further physiological damage to the range resource. In 17 of these allotments, the season-of-use will not change until an AMP is developed and implemented. In the remaining seven allotments, the season-of-use will change following the criteria noted in Table 5. Season-of-use changes will facilitate the implementation of grazing systems, which will further maintain or improve the vegetative resource.

Decision 6

Physical access will be constructed, subject to available funds, on public lands within the following legal descriptions (also see Figure 4):

Description	Miles
1. T.11N., R.13W.	Sections 6, 7, 18 3 miles
2. T.11N., R.13W.	Sections 14, 15, 16 3 miles
3. T.11N., R.13W. T.11N., R.12W. T.12N., R.12W.	Section 1 Section 6 Sections 31, 32, 33, 34 2 miles

Rationale

BLM currently does not have access into two grazing allotments, Baker Hills and Dove Creek (southeast portion). Effective range monitoring and utilization studies require that BLM personnel have vehicular access to the allotments.

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 5 Livestock Seasons-of Use

Allotment	Class	Season-of-Use
Goose Creek	Cattle	04/01 - 12/31 ¹
Vipont	Cattle	07/01 - 08/31
Junction Creek	Cattle	05/01 - 05/31 ²
	Cattle	11/01 - 11/30 ²
Raft River	Cattle	03/16 - 04/15 ³
Yost Pastures	Cattle	05/01 - 06/20
	Cattle	11/01 - 12/31
Janey Spring	Cattle	05/10 - 06/25 ²
Hardestry Creek	Cattle	04/16 - 12/15 ²
	Horses	05/01 - 10/15 ²
Grouse Creek	Cattle & Horses	05/01 - 10/15 ²
Dry Canyon	Cattle & Horses	05/01 - 10/15 ²
Lynn	Cattle	06/16 - 09/30
Kimball Creek	Cattle & Horses	05/16 - 09/30 ⁵
Death Creek	Cattle	04/01 - 05/15
	Cattle	11/01 - 11/30
Buckskin	Cattle & Horses	04/01 - 04/30 ²
	Cattle & Horses	11/01 - 11/30 ²
Red Butte	Cattle & Horses	04/01 - 04/30 ²
	Cattle & Horses	11/01 - 11/30 ²
Ingham	Cattle	05/01 - 09/15 ⁶
Muddy Creek	Cattle	07/01 - 09/30 ²
Ingham Pass	Cattle	08/11 - 10/10
Dairy Valley	Cattle	04/16 - 10/31
Cycle Springs	Cattle	06/01 - 08/31 ²
Rosebud	Cattle	02/16 - 12/15 ²
	Sheep	04/11 - 04/27 ²
	Sheep	12/03 - 12/23 ²
Kilgore	Cattle & Horses	11/01 - 04/30
White Lakes	Sheep	12/01 - 03/31
Pine Creek	Cattle & Horses	05/01 - 05/15 ²
	Cattle & Horses	10/01 - 10/15 ²
Owl Springs	Cattle & Horses	12/01 - 03/31
U & I	Cattle	11/01 - 03/31
Watercress	Cattle	12/16 - 02/15 ²
Yost IsoTracts	Cattle	06/01 - 10/30
Lucin/Pilot	Cattle	05/16 - 02/28 ⁷
	Sheep	04/01 - 04/14
Leppe	Cattle	01/01 - 03/28 ²
	Sheep	01/01 - 03/15 ²
Warm Springs	Cattle	04/10 - 04/30
	Cattle	11/20 - 12/30 ²
Newfoundland	Sheep	12/16 - 03/31
Basin L & L	Cattle	12/20 - 04/19 ⁸
Young Brothers	Sheep	01/01 - 04/15
Ward	Sheep	12/21 - 03/31
Mann	Sheep	02/23 - 04/15
Matlin	Sheep	03/01 - 04/15
	Sheep	12/16 - 02/28
Red Dome	Sheep	12/16 - 04/15
Selman	Sheep	12/16 - 04/15
Terrace	Sheep	11/01 - 04/15
Pritchett Block	Sheep	12/03 - 12/23
	Sheep	04/11 - 04/27
Dove Creek	Cattle	10/16 - 04/30 ²
	Horses	12/01 - 04/30 ²
Peplin	Sheep	12/25 - 04/10
Baker Hills	Cattle	11/01 - 01/15
Black Rock	Cattle	05/20 - 09/01 ⁹
Rosette	Cattle	10/16 - 12/31

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 5 (Continued)

Allotment	Class	Season-of-Use
Hirschi	Cattle	10/16 - 12/31
Shaw Spring	Cattle	12/01 - 03/31
South Kelton	Cattle	11/01 - 12/31
Fisher Creek	Cattle	05/01 - 09/30
Ten Mile	Cattle	05/01 - 05/31
North Kelton	Cattle	11/01 - 04/30 ¹⁰
Curlew Junction	Cattle	05/01 - 05/31
Snowville	Cattle	11/15 - 04/30 ²
	Sheep	01/01 - 02/22 ²
Rozelle Flats	Cattle	11/01 - 05/31
Golden Spike	Cattle	11/16 - 12/31
Salt Wells	Cattle	11/16 - 05/15
Conner	Cattle	01/01 - 02/15
Ida Ute	Cattle	03/01 - 05/31
Naf	Cattle	06/15 - 05/25

¹ This season-of-use will be permitted until a Multiple Use Management Plan is implemented. If this plan cannot be completed and signed by March 31, 1987, the season-of-use will be changed to meet the objectives for the allotment.

² This season-of-use will be permitted until an AMP is completed and signed. At that time, the season-of-use could be adjusted to meet the requirements of the AMP.

³ This season-of-use will be permitted until the allotment is incorporated into the Yost Pasture Allotment. If the consolidation does not occur by December 31, 1987, the proposed season-of-use will be 04/16 - 05/15.

⁴ This season-of-use will be permitted until an AMP is implemented. If an AMP is not completed and signed by March 31, 1988, the proposed season-of-use will be 05/15 - 10/30.

⁵ This season-of-use will be permitted until an AMP is implemented. If an AMP is not completed and signed by December 31, 1992, the proposed season will be 06/01 - 09/30.

⁶ This season-of-use will be permitted until an AMP is implemented. If an AMP is not completed and signed by March 31, 1988, the proposed season-of-use will be 06/01 - 09/30.

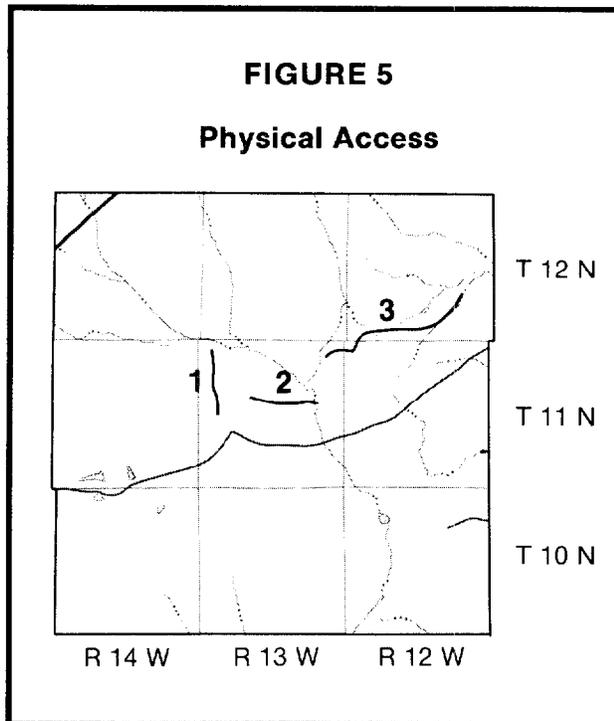
⁷ This season-of-use for cattle will be permitted until the permittees agree upon and sign an AMP. The new season-of-use established in the AMP will not allow cattle grazing in the allotment from 03/01 - 05/15.

⁸ This season-of-use will be permitted until an AMP is implemented. If an AMP is not signed, the proposed season will be 12/01 to 03/31.

⁹ Total grazing time may not exceed two months. Specific dates will be negotiated with the permittee.

¹⁰ This season-of-use will be permitted until an AMP is implemented. At that time, the season-of-use will be changed to 11/01 to 04/30.

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Decision 7

Continue to work with Box Elder County in the control of noxious weeds which are invading road rights-of-way and native ranges.

Rationale

This is BLM's current policy for dealing with noxious weeds in Box Elder County and is the most effective way to resolve the problem.

AIR, SOIL AND WATERSHED PROGRAM

Decision 1

Soil, water and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Such an evaluation will consider the impacts of any proposed project to soil, water and air resources in the affected area. Objectives of the air, soil, and watershed programs will be coordinated and implemented through other resource management programs. Watershed management activity plans will be written as needed for other areas.

Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards, including consultation with State agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality. Management actions on public

land within Donner Creek and Bettridge Creek watersheds and any single family domestic water sources will be designed to protect water quality and quantity.

Air quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards, including consultation with State agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect air quality. Management actions on public land will be designed to protect against significant air quality deterioration.

Close coordination will be maintained with the State in the development or modification of their air quality implementation plans to assure BLM management options such as prescribed fire and smoke management are maintained. Coordination with the State will be continued on appropriate air quality classifications whenever BLM-managed areas of special concern (e.g., ACECs and scenic areas) have been identified as significant features or characters.

Rationale

The Clean Water Act, the Soil Conservation Act, and the Clean Air Act set objectives for these resources and give requirements to be met. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with soil, water and air resource management and compliance with applicable Federal and State air and water standards, regulations and implementation plans.

Decision 2

Acquire and protect water rights for water use on public land as directed by the Regional Solicitor and maintain them in cooperation with the State Engineer. Existing water rights will be evaluated to determine whether they are adequate in quantity and location to meet resource management requirements. Water rights will be placed in a program for rapid access and update. Future resource management requirements may result in the need to change existing water rights and acquire additional water rights. Private water rights on public lands will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to assure that water not needed for public uses is available for private use.

Rationale

Water rights are required by the State for any and all uses of water except for Public Water Reserve 107 waters. Generally, water demand exceeds supply and creates conflict between

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

users. Water rights allow proper development and use of the water resource by water right holders.

Decision 3

Monitor selected perennial streams and Rosebud Station for water quality trend to insure that management activities on public lands comply with existing State water quality standards. BLM management activities will be coordinated with the Utah State Water Engineer, the Utah Division of Environmental Health, and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency for proper water management. The streams presently being monitored, their general locations and classifications are listed in Table 6 and shown in Figure 6.

Rationale

Perennial streams are important water sources for wildlife, livestock, aquatic habitat, agricultural and domestic use. Water quality suitable for such uses needs to be maintained to ensure that these water sources continue to be

available in the future. Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards, dated October 24, 1978, directed that all Federal agencies comply with local standards and limitations relating to water quality.

Decision 4

Identify and evaluate areas of erosion on public land to meet the following objectives:

- Identify the erosion source(s) on public land;
- Evaluate improvement potential and prioritize areas for improvement;
- Identify methods for improvement which will maintain or improve the water and vegetative resources while providing for livestock and wildlife use as well as the maintenance of the watershed;
- Monitor vegetation and water conditions on the watershed.

Drainages to be evaluated include: Kimball

**TABLE 6
PERENNIAL STREAM LOCATIONS
AND
STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS CLASSIFICATION**

STREAM	GENERAL LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION
1. Donner Creek	T. 4 N., R. 19 W., Sec. 28	1C, 3A, 4
2. Bettridge Creek	T. 4 N., R. 19 W., Sec. 22	1C, 3A, 4
3. Meadow Creek	T. 13 N., R. 19 W., Sec. 14	Unclassified ¹
4. Hardesty Creek	T. 14 N., R. 19 W., Sec. 35	3A, 4
5. Pole Creek	T. 14 N., R. 18 W., Sec. 4-10	3A, 4
	T. 15 N., R. 19 W., Sec. 25	3A, 4
6. Birch Creek	T. 15 N., R. 18 W., Sec. 34-35	3A, 4
7. Pine Creek, South Fork	T. 12 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 36	3A, 4
8. Little Pole Creek	T. 13 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 28	3A, 4
9. Kimball Creek	T. 12 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 4	3A, 4
	T. 13 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 34	3A, 4
10. Red Butte Creek, North Fork	T. 11 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 1-3, 10	3A, 4
11. Red Butte Creek, South Fork	T. 11 N., R. 17 W., Sec. 12-14	3A, 4
12. Potters Creek	T. 12 N., R. 16 W., Sec. 32-33	3A, 4
13. Raft River	T. 14 N., R. 16 W., Sec. 8-10, 17	3A, 4
14. Rock Creek	T. 13 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 12	Unclassified ¹
	T. 13 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 18	3A, 4
15. Fisher Creek	T. 13 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 6, 8	3A, 4
16. Dunn Creek, Left Fork	T. 13 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 6	3A, 4

¹ Presently unclassified stream that is expected to be classified as 3A, 4.

Classifications: 1C - Domestic water source
 3A - Cold water fishery
 4 - Agricultural water

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Creek, Red Butte Creek, Grouse Creek, Rosebud Creek, Pole Creek, Birch Creek, Raft River and the north end of the Pilot Mountain Range.

Rationale

In several drainage areas that are generally within a slight to moderate erosion condition class, erosion could accelerate if preventative and corrective actions are not taken. BLM is mandated by numerous laws including FLPMA, the Clean Water Act, and the Soil Conservation Act (1935) to maintain or improve the overall watershed quality including the water and vegetative resources.

Decision 5

Manage riparian areas, including the stream riparian areas shown in Figure 6, for multiple use purposes such as wildlife, range, watershed and recreation. Riparian areas located on public lands will be managed to meet the following objectives:

- Identify the condition of riparian areas;
- Evaluate potential for improvement and prioritize projects to achieve this potential;
- Maintain or improve riparian areas to a satisfactory condition;
- Provide for the management necessary to meet the above goals and allotment specific objectives in activity plans, including applicable habitat management plans, allotment management plans, and the Goose Creek Multiple Use Management Plan;
- Seek cooperative efforts with adjoining landowners and other resource management agencies.

Rationale

Riparian areas are an important resource for many land use activities. As a consequence, riparian areas become highly controversial, requiring intensive management. BLM is mandated by Executive Order 11990 and manual requirements to manage these areas for multiple use while providing for protection and improvement of the areas.

Decision 6

Delineate the 100 year and 500 year floodplains on major drainages on public lands that include human occupation or facilities using currently

established techniques. These floodplains include Grouse Creek, Goose Creek, Junction Creek, and Raft River. Once the floodplains are delineated, BLM will manage these areas to meet the following objectives:

- Retain all public lands within the 500 year floodplains;
- Take all necessary management actions to protect human life and minimize property damage; and
- Restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of floodplains.

Rationale

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires that floodplains and flood hazards be considered in all public land management. Appropriate management actions to reduce loss of life and property are required. The planning area has high potential for flash flooding as a result of heavy summer thunderstorms.

Wildlife Program

Decision 1

The following criteria must be met prior to BLM agreeing to big game reintroductions on public lands within the planning area:

- (1) BLM policy requirements as stated in manual 6820 must be met.
- (2) The species to be established must meet the definition of a reestablishment (reintroduction) as defined in manual section 6820.05c.
- (3) The reintroduction must be approved or sponsored by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR).
- (4) An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Management Plan (HMP) must determine:
 - that the reintroduction will not negatively affect any native endangered, threatened or sensitive species, either plant or animal;
 - that land use conflicts which cannot or have not been resolved will not result from the reintroduction; (In cases where the release may be of greater benefit than the competing use, the release may take precedence. Forage allocation for the

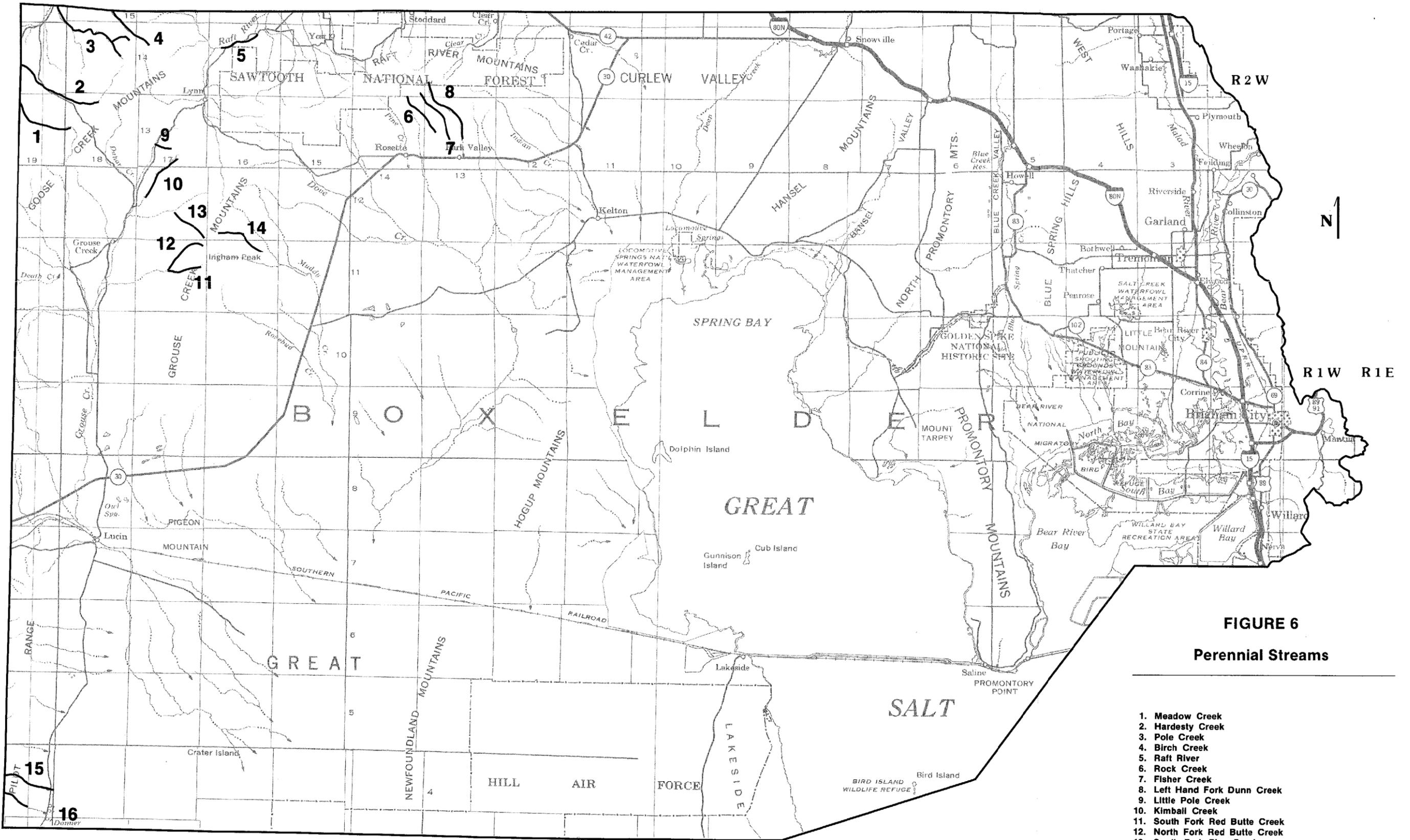
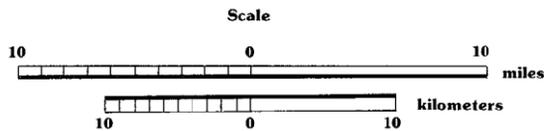


FIGURE 6
Perennial Streams

- 1. Meadow Creek
- 2. Hardesty Creek
- 3. Pole Creek
- 4. Birch Creek
- 5. Raft River
- 6. Rock Creek
- 7. Fisher Creek
- 8. Left Hand Fork Dunn Creek
- 9. Little Pole Creek
- 10. Kimball Creek
- 11. South Fork Red Butte Creek
- 12. North Fork Red Butte Creek
- 13. South Fork Pine Creek
- 14. Potters Creek
- 15. Bettridge Creek
- 16. Donner (Morrison) Creek



BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA

NOTE: This map meets the National Map Accuracy Standards

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

proposed population will be based upon non-competitive forage availability, and UDWR will seek agreements with adjoining landowners.);

- what studies are necessary to monitor the reintroduction.

(5) Effective quarantine procedures must be implemented to insure that the release stock is disease-free.

(6) Following the completion of the HMP, a Cooperative Agreement between BLM and UDWR must be prepared to authorize the big game reintroduction.

The above decision applies only to big game species. Federally-threatened, endangered and sensitive species will follow similar procedures but will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Fisheries and upland game species are not affected by this decision but must meet the criteria outlined in the Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UDWR and the BLM.

Rationale

It is BLM policy to cooperate with state wildlife agencies, where possible, to reintroduce native species into historic ranges. The Master MOU between the BLM and UDWR also calls for this cooperation. The above criteria meet the Master MOU and BLM manual requirements for the reintroduction of big game species. This decision has been clarified by changing the phrase "will secure agreements" to "will seek agreements." BLM must retain full responsibility for making a decision involving a reintroduction of wildlife onto public lands.

Decision 2

Agree to and cooperate in a bighorn sheep reintroduction on the Pilot Mountain Range, not to exceed 30 animals on public lands in the planning area as specified in the Pilot Mountain HMP and accompanying cooperative transplant agreement. As noted in the HMP, BLM recognizes that an additional 30 animals would be allowed on the Utah side of the mountain range since approximately half the available habitat which the herd will utilize is located on private or State-owned land. Additional habitat and animals would be available on the Nevada side of the mountain range. A total of 64 AUMs would be allocated for use by the reintroduced bighorn sheep. Bighorn sheep introduction areas are shown in Figure 7.

Rationale

The Pilot Mountain HMP has analyzed this transplant and determined that no major resource conflicts exist and that suitable habitat and forage are available. A cooperative transplant agreement has been drafted. No conflicts are expected.

Decision 3

Do not agree to the UDWR proposed elk reintroduction onto public lands on the Grouse Creek/Raft River Mountain ranges until all criteria in Wildlife Decision 1 have been met. No forage will be allocated for elk on the public lands on these mountain ranges at the present time. If a population develops on public land by natural migration, it will be allowed.

Rationale

It is BLM policy to cooperate with state wildlife agencies, where possible, to reintroduce native species into historic ranges. It is also BLM policy to refrain from wildlife reintroductions in areas where potential conflicts with existing uses have not or cannot be resolved (BLM Manual 6820.06c). In the planning criteria it was stipulated that the effect of public land management on neighboring land will be considered. BLM is a minority landowner within these mountain ranges. Private landowners are the majority landowners; they foresee elk tearing up fences, damaging haystacks, causing crop depredation, and competing with livestock for forage on private lands throughout most of the year. The Box Elder Sounding Board, with one dissenting voice, recommended that BLM not allow this reintroduction. The large number of verbal and written comments opposing this reintroduction persuaded BLM that existing land use conflicts had not been resolved; therefore, BLM's decision is not to agree to this reintroduction until conflicts are resolved.

The Board was of the consensus opinion that natural immigration of elk into these areas would be acceptable. If natural immigration were to happen, an HMP and cooperative agreement would need to be completed to set a herd limit and allocate forage for the elk population.

Decision 4

Agree to and cooperate in a bighorn sheep reintroduction on the Newfoundland Mountain Range provided that (1) the present domestic

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

sheep permit is voluntarily relinquished or converted to cattle use and (2) an HMP and associated cooperative transplant agreement have been completed. The authorized population of bighorn sheep would be approximately 100 animals and require 184 AUMs of forage per year. The 184 AUMs of forage are authorized but cannot be utilized until the previously stated conditions have been met. Figure 7 shows reintroduction areas for bighorn sheep.

Rationale

Transplanting native sheep into an area used by domestic sheep would be impractical since the transfer of disease and/or parasites from the domestic sheep could eliminate the native sheep population. Therefore, the Newfoundland Mountain Range would be suitable native sheep habitat if the domestic sheep use were removed. UDWR has expressed an interest in this transplant and BLM concurs that it would be a reasonable and beneficial use of the available resources, if the conflict with domestic sheep use were eliminated.

Decision 5

Allow pronghorn to be transplanted or to increase in areas presently inhabited following the completion of an HMP and subsequent cooperative transplant agreement on the following 19 allotments: Owl Springs, U & I, Watercress, Lucin/Pilot, Basin L & L, Young Brothers, Ward, Mann, Matlin, Red Dome, Selmon/Goring, Terrace, Dove Creek, Peplin, Baker Hills, Black Rock, South Kelton, North Kelton, and Snowville. The total population would be 2,250 animals requiring 1,586 AUMs per year. Transplant areas are shown in Figure 7.

Rationale

UDWR has expressed an interest in establishing this pronghorn population, and BLM concurs that it would be a reasonable and beneficial use of the available resources. The population and AUMs stated above are optimum numbers, and it is highly likely that only a small percentage of this number of animals will ever become established within this large area of habitat. Current antelope numbers in the area of Young Brothers, Mann, Ward, Matlin, and Peplin Allotments are estimated to be near the 350-animal optimum population that UDWR has identified for this area. No transplants would occur in this area unless the population were to decline drastically for some reason that would

not preclude transplanting antelope to rebuild the herd. Pronghorn do not require large amounts of forage per animal and are usually not considered to be highly competitive with domestic livestock. There should be no major conflicts between the pronghorn and other resource uses.

Decision 6

Authorize initial forage use for big game species as follows:

Mule deer	15,570 AUMs
Elk	344 AUMs
Pronghorn	1,586 AUMs
Bighorn sheep	248 AUMs
TOTAL	17,748 AUMs

Big game use by allotment is shown in Table 7.

A total of 17,748 AUMs will be authorized for wildlife. Of this, 15,570 AUMs are for mule deer, which are currently at optimum numbers. A total of 344 AUMs would be authorized for elk use for the Pilot Mountain herd. The 910 AUMs requested by UDWR for elk use on the Grouse Creek/Raft River Mountain Ranges would not be allocated. The 1,586 AUMs for pronghorn use include present forage demand and forage needed by increased numbers and transplants. The 248 AUMs authorized for bighorn sheep include 64 AUMs for the Pilot Mountain flock as approved in the Pilot Mountain HMP and 184 AUMs for the Newfoundland Mountain transplant. The 14 bighorn sheep AUMs requested by UDWR on the Raft River Mountain Range would not be allocated.

Rationale

It is BLM policy to allocate the public land vegetation resources in accordance with the multiple use principles as required by FLMPA and the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978. The authorized forage for wildlife as identified in this decision provides all of the forage needed for optimum numbers, including reintroduction for all big game except the proposed Grouse Creek/Raft River Mountain elk reintroduction and the proposed Raft River bighorn sheep reintroduction.

The majority of the authorized forage would be used by existing big game animals. A total of 1,212 AUMs would be allocated for increased pronghorn (964 AUMs) and bighorn sheep reintroductions (248 AUMs). This increased AUM allocation will not affect existing uses and will be spread over 21 allotments (19 for pronghorn and two for bighorn sheep).

T 14 N

T 13 N

T 12 N

T 11 N

T 10 N

T 9 N

T 8 N

T 7 N

T 6 N

T 5 N

T 4 N

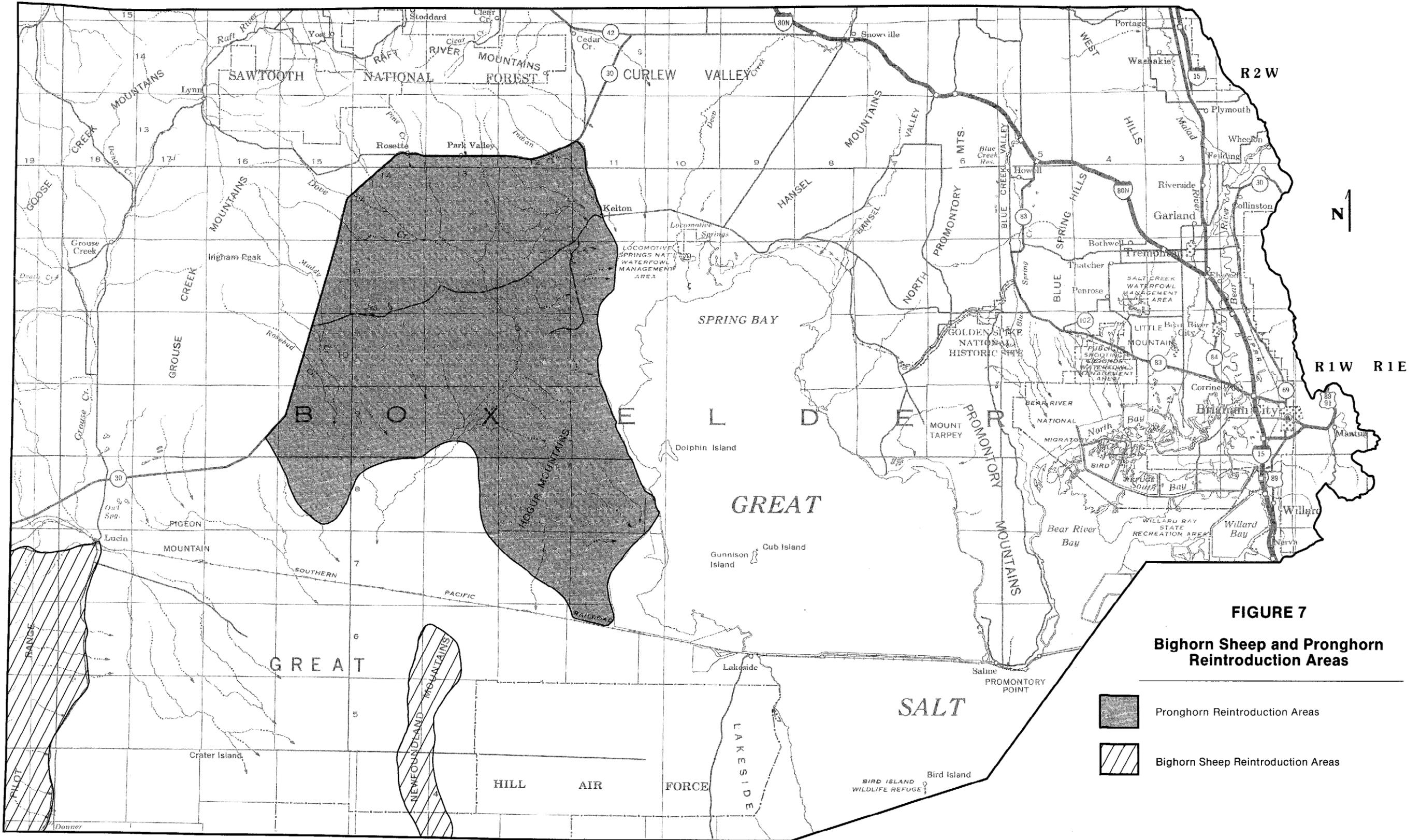
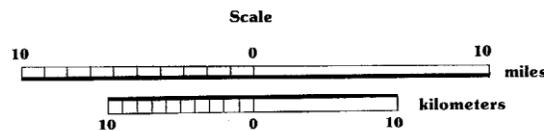


FIGURE 7
Bighorn Sheep and Pronghorn
Reintroduction Areas

-  Pronghorn Reintroduction Areas
-  Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Areas



BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA

NOTE: This map meets the National Map Accuracy Standards

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 7 BIG GAME FORAGE USE

ALLOTMENT		BIG GAME AUMs				
Number	Name	Deer	Elk	Pronghorn	Bighorn Sheep	Total Big Game Use
5034	Goose Creek	360	0	0	0	360
5035	Vipont	105	0	0	0	105
5036	Junction Creek	341	0	0	0	341
5037	Raft River	0	0	0	0	0
5038	Yost Pasture	892	0	0	0	892
5039	Janey Spring	691	0	0	0	691
5040	Hardesty Creek	424	0	0	0	424
5041	Grouse Creek	2,317	0	0	0	2,317
5042	Dry Canyon	670	0	0	0	670
5043	Lynn	776	0	0	0	776
5044	Kimball Creek	776	0	0	0	776
5045	Death Creek	147	0	0	0	147
5046	Buckskin	59	0	0	0	59
5047	Red Butte	430	0	0	0	430
5048	Ingham	1,353	0	0	0	1,353
5049	Muddy Creek	181	0	0	0	181
5050	Ingham	214	0	0	0	214
5051	Dairy Valley	414	0	0	0	414
5052	Cycle Springs	493	0	0	0	493
5053	Rosebud	732	0	0	0	732
5054	Kilgore	480	0	0	0	480
5055	White Lakes	859	0	0	0	859
5056	Pine Creek	943	0	0	0	943
5057	Owl Springs	0	0	192	0	192
5058	U & I	238	0	124	0	362
5059	Watercress	0	0	52	0	52
5060	Yost Isotracts	0	0	0	0	0
5062	Lucin/Pilot	379	344	256	64	1,043
5063	Leppe	0	0	0	0	0
5064	Warm Springs	516	0	0	0	516
5065	Newfoundland	0	0	0	184 ¹	184 ¹
5066	Basin L & L	0	0	36	0	36
5067	Young Brothers	0	0	28	0	28
5068	Ward	0	0	28	0	28
5070	Mann	0	0	28	0	28
5071	Matlin	0	0	84	0	84
5072	Red Dome	0	0	36	0	36
5073	Selman/Goring	0	0	28	0	28
5074	Terrace	0	0	44	0	44
5075	Pritchett Block	0	0	0	0	0
5076	Dove Creek	224	0	36	0	260
5077	Peplin	0	0	52	0	52
5078	Baker Hills	0	0	52	0	52
5079	Black Rock	0	0	36	0	36
5080	Rosette	172	0	0	0	172
5081	Hirschi	96	0	0	0	96
5082	Shaw Springs	14	0	0	0	14
5083	South Kelton	0	0	78	0	78
5084	Fisher Creek	109	0	0	0	109
5085	Ten Mile	75	0	0	0	75
5086	North Kelton	90	0	70	0	160
5087	Curlew Junction	0	0	0	0	0
5088	Snowville	0	0	326	0	326
5090	Salt Wells	0	0	0	0	0
5091	Rozelle Flats	0	0	0	0	0
5092	Golden Spike	0	0	0	0	0
5093	Conner	0	0	0	0	0
5094	Ida-Ute	0	0	0	0	0
5095	Naf	0	0	0	0	0
Totals		15,570	344	1,586	248	17,748

¹ 184 AUMs of bighorn sheep use is dependent upon the permittee voluntarily relinquishing his domestic sheep permit or converting the permit to cattle use. (See Wildlife Decision 3.)

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sufficient forage is available to meet this use.

The decision not to allocate 14 AUMs for bighorn sheep on public land on the Raft River Mountain Range is based upon the uncertainty that the reintroduction will take place. The seasonal use areas for these animals are not specifically known. The decision not to allocate the 910 AUMs for elk use on the Grouse Creek/Raft River Mountain Ranges is based upon Wildlife Decision 2. If natural immigration were to eventually establish an elk herd on the mountain ranges to the point that allocation of forage becomes necessary, an HMP and cooperative agreement would be completed to set a herd limit and allocate forage.

Decision 7

BLM will protect important wildlife habitat values from disturbing activities by restricting seismic work, well development, new road construction, rights-of-ways and other disturbing activities excluding maintenance activities in the following areas and during the stated time periods:

- (1) within mule deer winter range between December 1 and April 15 each year;
- (2) within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites between March 1 and July 15 each year;
- (3) within 0.5 mile of sage grouse strutting grounds (leks) between March 15 and June 15 each year or year-long if the disturbance would negatively impact the effectiveness of the lek for more than an off-seasonal basis.
- (4) within 600 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats yearlong, if the proposed activity could significantly affect water quality or productivity of the riparian/aquatic zone.

Specific exceptions to the above stated restrictions may be granted by BLM if it can be shown that the proposed activity will not seriously disturb the wildlife habitat values being protected.

Rationale

Implementation of the above measures will provide necessary protection of key wildlife habitats in the planning area. These measures will provide adequate protection for important breeding, wintering, watering, and feeding habitats for a variety of wildlife species, as well as preventing unnecessary degradation of the environment.

Limiting activities in mule deer winter range will minimize disturbance and aid survival of

wintering deer.

Restrictions within 0.5 mile of active raptor nest sites will reduce nest abandonment and increase the production of the various raptor species within the planning area.

Protection of sage grouse strutting grounds will maximize breeding opportunity, which will aid in increasing annual productivity and survival.

Restricting activities that could affect water quality or productivity within 600 feet of riparian/aquatic habitats will aid in protection of these important areas from degradation, such as chemical pollution, sedimentation, and excessive compaction.

These measures also comply with mandates as outlined in Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and FLPMA (Section 103).

Decision 8

Develop comprehensive wildlife HMPs in the planning area according to the following priority list:

- (1) Blue Spring Marsh (complete Fiscal Year 1986)
- (2) Salt Wells (complete Fiscal Year 1987)
- (3) Sheep Trail/Curlew Junction/Hogup Mountain Range (complete Fiscal Year 1989)
- (4) Grouse Creek/Raft River Mountain Ranges (complete Fiscal Year 1991)
- (5) Newfoundland Mountain Range
- (6) Goose Creek Mountain Range

The HMPs will be developed along allotment boundaries to the extent possible and will be coordinated to the greatest possible degree with concurrent development of AMPs. These HMPs will contain habitat development proposals and each will be reviewed by a Technical Review Committee.

Habitat management opportunities for threatened and endangered species will be identified in the HMPs. The objective would be to assist in delisting the species.

Future levels of funding and manpower may require some adjustments in the timely development of HMPs.

Rationale

It is BLM policy to develop comprehensive activity plans that state the management objectives and the steps necessary to

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

accomplish these objectives, for a given resource within a certain area. Once signed, the above listed HMPs will guide the wildlife program within the planning area in an orderly and economic fashion.

BLM's Washington Office has issued directives that require HMPs to be developed based upon the following priorities: (1) threatened or endangered species needs, (2) wetland habitats, and (3) other species' crucial habitat needs. BLM's requirement to complete an HMP and subsequent cooperative transplant agreement prior to allowing species reintroduction also influences the HMP priority list.

The Blue Springs Marsh and Salt Wells areas are at the top of the priority list because they include wetlands. The Sheep Trail/Curlew Junction/Hogup Mountain Range is next on the list because of the pronghorn reintroductions. The Grouse Creek/Raft River Mountain area is next due to its importance for a variety of wildlife. The bighorn sheep reintroduction in the Newfoundland Mountains will probably not occur for several years. The Goose Creek Mountain Range is last because it has no reintroductions and is scheduled to have a Multiple Use Management Plan (MUMP) completed in 1987. Wildlife and wildlife habitat needs will be a major part of this MUMP.

RECREATION PROGRAM

Decision 1

Designate all public land in the planning area as open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use as follows (see Figure 8):

Open	999,634 acres
Limited	12,160 acres
Donner and Bettridge Creeks	980 acres (Limited to designated roads and trails)
Visual Resource Management Class II	10,930 acres (Limited to existing roads and trails)
Old Central Pacific Railroad Grade and Adjacent Sites	250 acres (Limited to existing roads and trails)
Closed	0 acres

Rationale

Areas designated as open either do not need ORV limitations or do not warrant ORV limitations to protect resource values when compared to the costs of imposing and enforcing those limitations.

Donner and Bettridge Creeks watersheds will be designated as an ACEC for the watershed values and protection of a threatened species. It is necessary to limit motorized vehicle use to the main entry-exit road of each watershed in order to protect water quality and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Land to be designated as limited includes the north half of T. 4 N., R. 19 W., Section 22 (340 acres) in Bettridge Creek watershed and Section 28 (640 acres) in Donner Creek watershed.

Motorized vehicle use will be limited to existing roads and trails on public lands that are designated as Visual Resource Management Class II. This affects 7,630 acres in the Red Butte Mountain area and 3,300 acres in the Devils Playground area for a total of 10,930 acres. This limitation protects scenic quality in both areas as well as watershed and cultural/historical values on Red Butte Mountain.

The old Central Pacific Railroad Grade and associated historic sites between the Golden Spike Historic Site and Lucin will be designated as an ACEC. A limited designation for ORVs on 250 acres is necessary to meet the protective and interpretive needs of the ACEC. Motorized vehicle travel on public land will be limited to existing roads and trails upon the railroad grade right-of-way and all adjacent historical sites.

VISUAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

Decision 1

Visual resource management classes assigned within the planning area are as follows:

VRM Class I	0 acres
VRM Class II	
Red Butte Mountain	7,630 acres
Devils Playground	3,300 acres
TOTAL	10,930 acres
VRM Class III	
Pilot Mountains	28,800 acres

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Newfoundland Mountains	23,705 acres
Burnt Mountain	2,346 acres
Goose Creek Mountains	17,920 acres
Raft River Narrows	810 acres
TOTAL	73,581 acres
VRM Class IV	927,283 acres

The VRM classifications are shown in Figure 9.

Rationale

The majority of the lands in Box Elder County are representative of the Great Basin and are rated as Class IV. However, the Class III and especially the Class II areas offer significant visual diversity. These areas exhibit visual contrast such as steep and rugged terrain, perennial streams and riparian areas, unique geological features, and significant vegetative diversity.

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

Decision 1

Cultural resources will continue to be inventoried and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Such evaluation will consider the impacts of any proposed project to cultural resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for cultural resources.

For existing cultural properties, a determination of significance would be made prior to any recommended project being implemented. In project areas where resource knowledge is limited or unknown, both examination of existing data and field inventories would be done to identify the resources and evaluate the cultural value of each. Prior to any activity plan or project that may adversely affect these properties, the State Historic Preservation Office would be consulted in the determination of effect upon the property. For any site within the project area which would be affected by the activity plan or project, mitigation measures would be undertaken. These may include the following:

- (1) Adjusting of the project boundaries to avoid impacting the sites;
- (2) Mapping, photo documenting, and drawing the cultural resource before proceeding with project implementation;
- (3) Adopting methods or techniques that

would minimize disturbance to the site and its environmental setting;

(4) Removing and relocating the cultural property to another appropriate location after documentation of the property and the development of a management plan to maintain the historic value of the property, or

(5) Excavating the archaeological properties with a goal of preserving the values of the properties.

The inventory or mitigation would be directed by BLM cultural resource specialists or through contracts with individuals or institutions meeting professional standards.

Rationale

This is BLM's current policy for managing cultural resources in Box Elder County and is the most effective way to manage these resources.

FOREST PRODUCTS PROGRAM

Decision 1

The forestry program will continue to be implemented as outlined in the Bear River Resource Area Woodland Products Plan written and approved in 1984. The plan will be updated or revised as needed by 1987. The plan will service the demands of the public for woodland products while insuring that resource values are maintained or enhanced.

Rationale

This program can be used as an additional vegetative management tool to enhance watershed, range and wildlife programs while providing for the increased public demand for woodland products from western Box Elder County. Public demand for woodland products on the Wasatch Front is increasing as indicated by data gathered by the Sawtooth National Forest.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Decision 1

A fire suppression plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team and will include the following:

- (1) Full fire suppression will be implemented in areas:

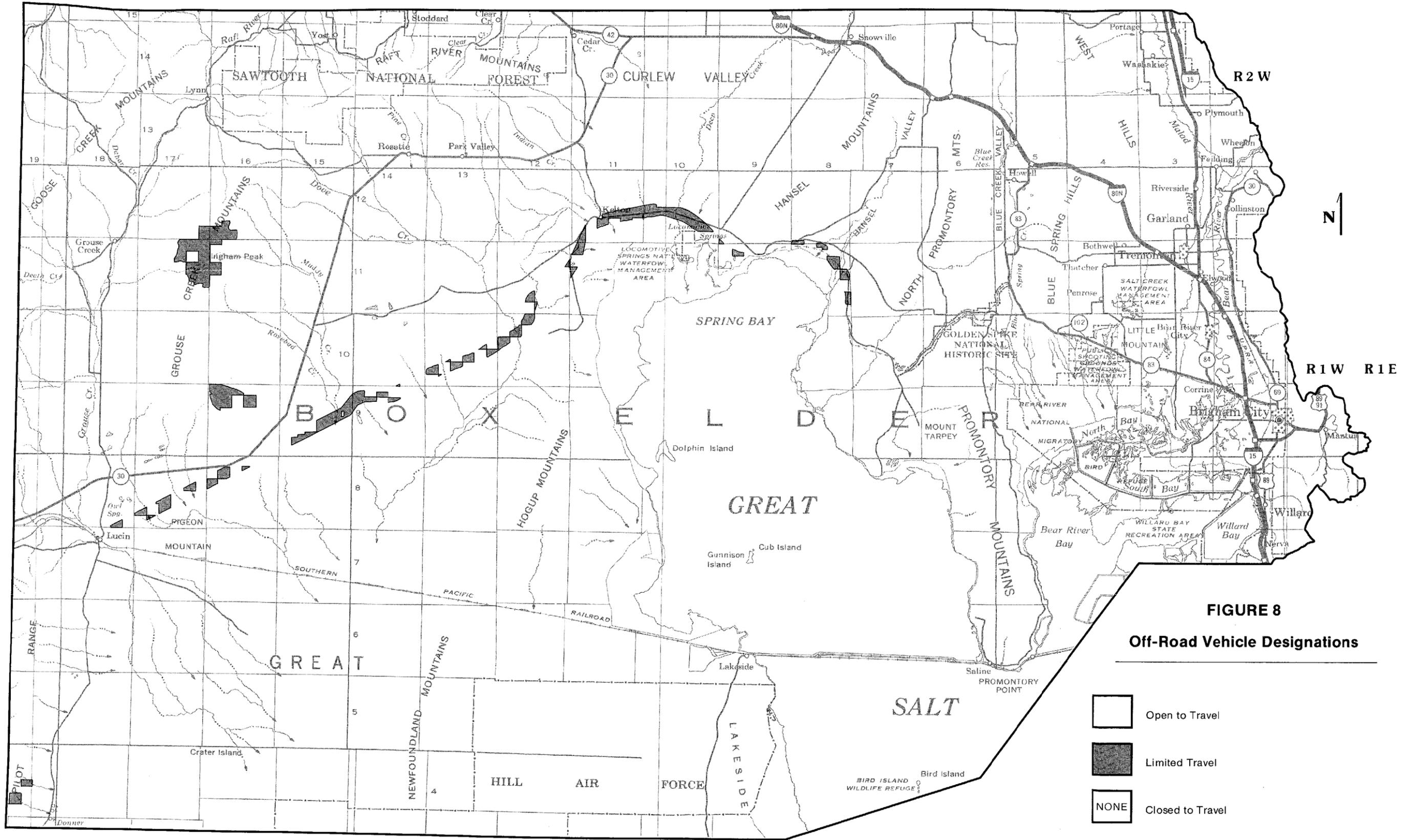
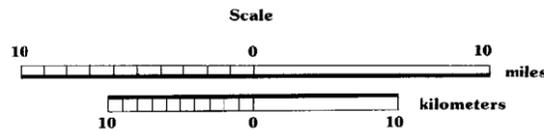


FIGURE 8
Off-Road Vehicle Designations



BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA

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BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- where wildfire may result in loss of life.
- where destruction of man-made facilities such as homes, hay yards and power substations could occur.
- where fire would damage important natural resource values, such as the salt desert shrub vegetative type.

(2) Limited suppression will be implemented in areas where:

- resource values may benefit or be increased by fire such as in the pinyon/juniper vegetative type.
- hazards to firefighters, including potential aircraft hazards, exist.
- terrain features cause extreme difficulty in fire suppression, leading to heavy damage of equipment.
- the cost of fire suppression exceeds the benefit.

(3) Prescribed fire will be implemented in areas where resource management objectives can be met by utilizing planned or unplanned ignitions. Within prescribed areas, both wildfires and prescribed fires must fall between predetermined parameters (prescription) including but not limited to weather conditions, fuel type and fire behavior. If these conditions are exceeded, appropriate suppression action will be taken.

(4) Areas of fire suppression responsibilities in Box Elder County will be negotiated among cooperating agencies in cooperative agreements.

Rationale

A fire suppression plan will facilitate the use of both planned and unplanned fires as an important watershed, range and wildlife management tool. This plan will also provide a cost-effective alternative to the present full fire suppression.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Decision 1

Designate approximately ~~250~~ acres of the historic Central Pacific Railroad Grade and associated sites, between the Golden Spike Historic Site on the east and Lucin on the west, as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (see Figure 9). Take the following actions:

(1) Recommend the ACEC area for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

(2) Limit off-road vehicle use to existing roads and trails as identified in Decision 1 for Recreation.

(3) Establish a steering committee, comprised of representatives of BLM, the National Park Service, Box Elder County, the Utah State Preservation Office, and others as appropriate, to guide development and implementation of a management plan for the ACEC. The plan will include:

- interpretive needs;
- protection measures, such as requirements for steering committee review of proposals for rights-of-way which would cross the ACEC; and
- consideration of public safety.

(4) Pursue a written memorandum of understanding between Box Elder County and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office for preservation and management of existing structures and historical sites within the ACEC.

Rationale

The grade and associated sites are of national historic significance. There presently is no organized plan to protect this national resource from accelerated man-caused deterioration. Use of the steering committee to oversee development and implementation of the plan will assure a balanced plan that includes input from the appropriate entities.

Without designation of the area as one of critical environmental concern and without taking the above actions, the grade and associated sites will not be adequately protected and will not receive due prominence as a nationally historic remnant of the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

Decision 2

Designate approximately ~~1120~~ acres of the Donner Creek and Bettridge Creek watersheds as an ACEC (see Figure 9). Prepare an ACEC plan that includes the entirety of the two watersheds, including the Nevada portion if the Elko District of BLM is agreeable.

Rationale

Donner and Bettridge Creeks are habitat for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. This is believed to be the purest remaining strain of this

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

fish. This is also the only known location of this fish in Utah; the only other known area of occurrence is the Lahontan Basin of Nevada. The Lahontan cutthroat trout is therefore of national importance. Both streams also are of sufficient water quality to be potable. Wendover City has water rights on Donner Creek for municipal purposes. The watershed of the two streams is relatively small and will require planned management if existing water quality and trout habitat are to be maintained.

Decision 3

Do not designate Red Butte Mountain as an ACEC.

Rationale

Detailed field examination of Red Butte Mountain resulted in the determination that designation as an ACEC is not justified. This is based on the finding that there are no unique resource values of regional or national importance and also that present management practices or management practices to be implemented through the RMP and subsequent activity planning provide adequate protection.

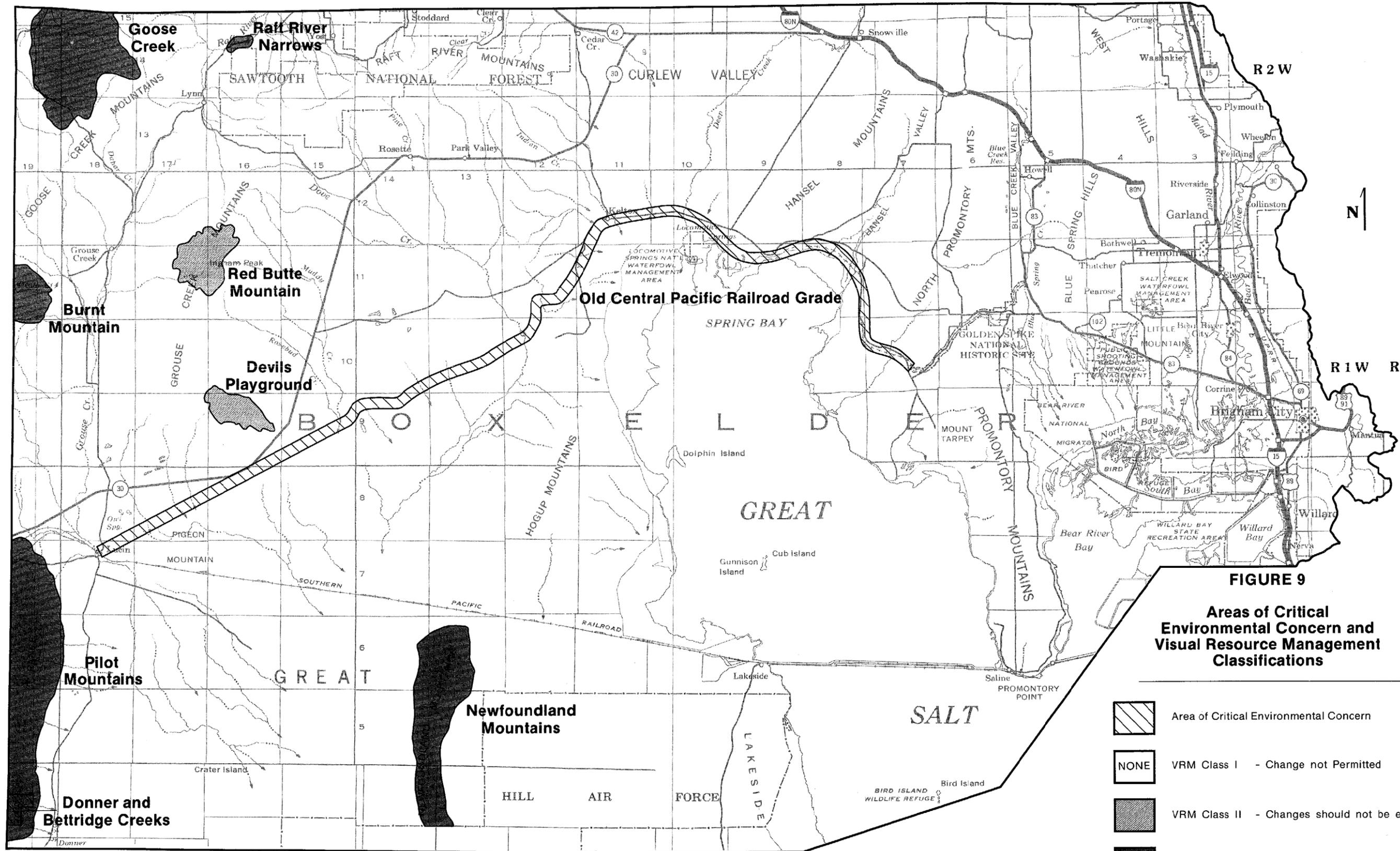
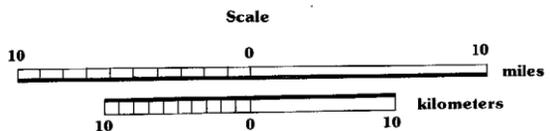


FIGURE 9
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Visual Resource Management Classifications



BOX ELDER PLANNING AREA

NOTE: This map meets the National Map Accuracy Standards

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF WITHDRAWAL U-52338

- T. 12N., R. 8W.,
Sec. 26, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 27, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 11N., R. 9W.,
Sec. 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 13N., R. 10W.,
Sec. 5, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 12, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 14N., R. 10W.,
Sec. 32, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 33, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 9N., R. 11W.,
Sec. 26, Lot 1
- T. 10N., R. 11W.,
Sec. 8, Lot 3
- T. 12N., R. 12W.,
Sec. 10, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 5N., R. 13W.,
Sec. 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 6N., R. 13W.,
Sec. 30, Lot 6
- T. 13N., R. 14W.,
Sec. 14, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 8N., R. 15W.,
Sec. 7, Lot 3
- T. 11N., R. 15W.,
Sec. 14, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 28, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 12N., R. 15W.,
Sec. 22, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 30, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 14N., R. 15W.,
Sec. 22, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 23, Lot 3

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- T. 10N., R. 16W.,
Sec. 6, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 12, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 13, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 24, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 11N., R. 16W.,
Sec. 18, Lots 1, 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 30, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 12N., R. 16W.,
Sec. 32, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 33, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 14N., R. 16W.,
Sec. 7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 17, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 9N., R. 17W.,
Sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 11N., R. 17W.,
Sec. 1, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 3, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 6, Lots 4, 6
Sec. 10, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 13, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 14, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 18, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 23, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 24, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 31, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 32, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 12N., R. 17W.,
Sec. 9, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 10, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 11, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 31, Lot 4
Sec. 36, Lot 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 13N., R. 17W.,
Sec. 22, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 23, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 27, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 33, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 34, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 35, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 14N., R. 17W.,
Sec. 6, Lots 16 and 20

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- T. 8N., R. 18W.,
Sec. 3, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 4, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 6, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 24, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 11N., R. 18W.,
Sec. 13, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 12N., R. 18W.,
Sec. 5, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 18, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 13N., R. 18W.,
Sec. 29, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 31, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 14N., R. 18W.,
Sec. 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 6, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 8, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 9, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 18, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 19, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 30, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 31, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 15N., R. 18W.,
Sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 35, Lot 1, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 4N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 5N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 4, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 14, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 26, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 6N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 4, Lot 3
Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 14, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 26, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 34, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

BOX ELDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

T. 11N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 1, Lot 1
Sec. 4, Lot 1
Sec. 9, Lot 1
Sec. 26, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 12N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 13N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 12, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 14N., R. 19W.,
Sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 24, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$